

Community Holiday Coalition



**"NEIGHBORS
HELPING
NEIGHBORS"**

**2003
HOLIDAY SEASON**

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors" Celebrates it's Eighth Year of Brightening up the Holidays

The Holiday Program is now celebrating it's eighth year in Loudoun County. During the past seven years the program has helped 1000's of families have a wonderful holiday season. The program swelled from 563 families requesting help in 1996 to 1097 families in 2002. For the seventh year in a row the community came together to ensure that every family had a bright and happy holiday season. Friends and neighbors responded by collecting and donating tons of food and 1,000's of gift items, including toys and clothing.

At Thanksgiving each family receives a food box containing all the traditional fixings for a holiday dinner. At Christmas, families get to choose new clothing and toys for their children. Items are displayed in department store style so our recipients can choose exactly what they need

or want. Senior citizens get to choose from a wide array of gifts and clothing. Every family also receives a laundry basket filled with household and personal care supplies, along with a food box for their holiday feast.

The "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" program was established in 1996 to be an enduring link between people - those who are in need and those who want to help. The Holiday Coalition is dedicated to making the holidays brighter for those in need. With your help we have succeeded and will continue to succeed to bring the magic of Christmas to many families.

**Help Spread the
Joy!!**



*The
Holiday Coalition's
mission is:
To help serve less fortunate families,
children and
senior citizens by providing much needed
items, in a manner that
promotes dignity and
self-respect. We believe
that a single act of
kindness can be the
turning point toward a
brighter future for those
in need.*

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**Holiday Hotline
703-771-5718
[www.loudoun.gov/
dss/holiday](http://www.loudoun.gov/dss/holiday)**

The Holiday Coalition - Who do we help?

Though Loudoun County is a wealthy community, many people here still experience job loss and other types of economic stress, just as families in other communities do. Often, because of the wealth in our community people on the edge find themselves unable to afford those extra things the rest of enjoy during the Holidays - when the bills are paid there is just nothing left. In every

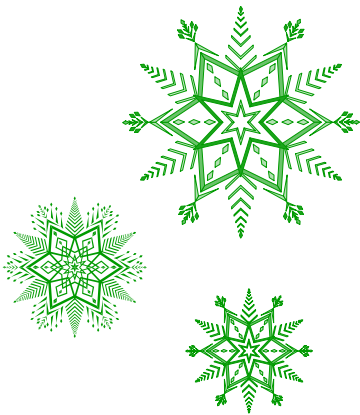
community, people experience disaster and crisis. They lose their jobs, their houses burn, divorces happen, or an illness strikes. These people live all around us. They are the single "working" parent, the elderly living on a fixed income, the physically and mentally challenged struggling to get by, or someone you least expect it to be, maybe even your own neighbor. Many of us know that some day it

could just as easily be our family that is dependent on the generosity of others. During the holiday season we must remember to make it a time to spread joy and good cheer...a time to reach out to our neighbors in need. Through the "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" Holiday Assistance Program we are able to ease some of the stress of the holidays and brighten up the spirits of young and old alike.

2002 Holiday Highlights

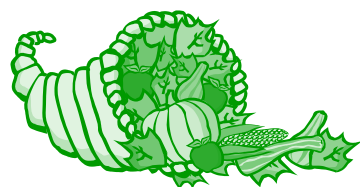
- 100's of volunteers contribute 4,000 hours
- 60 tons of food distributed
- More than 25,000 toys, gifts, and household items distributed
- 1,097 Families received assistance
- More than 4,000 individuals were helped, including 2,100 children

If you receive more than one copy of this newsletter, we apologize...Please pass it on to a friend!



"Volunteers greet clients with a cheerful smile and assist them with their shopping sprees. The dignity of those shopping is evident and their smiles tell us the experience has been a happy one for all."

- ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
- Holiday Food Boxes**
- Grocery Store Gift Certificates are requested for perishable items**
- Canned vegetables
 - Creamed Soups
 - Stuffing Mix
 - Yams
 - Boxed Mashed Potatoes
 - Cranberry Sauce
 - Boxed Roll Mix
 - Boxed Pie Crust Mix
 - Pumpkin Pie Filling
 - Evaporated Milk
 - Cake Mix & Frosting
 - Canned Fruit – Jell-O
 - Boxed whipped toppings
 - Gravy
 - Coffee, Tea
- ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★



Volunteers: "Light of the Season"

It takes a lot of elves to make both of the Holiday Stores happen! The "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" program depends on volunteers to be those elves...receiving elves, sorting elves, stocking elves, shopping elves! Each year hundreds of part time elves work to make sure that children and adults in our community have a brighter holiday. The elves are students, business people, scouts, senior citizens, and friends...all who work side by side to ensure that dreams and wishes are fulfilled. The visions in their heads aren't of sugarplums, but of, Barbies,

Rescue Workers, Elmo & Ernie, holiday food fixing's and more! From empty tables to tables overflowing with gifts, the elves keep busy. In addition to the 100's of store elves, there are 100's more out in the community organizing businesses, churches, schools, youth groups, friends and neighbors to help make a difference.

For many volunteer elves working at the Stores makes their own holidays complete. It's a thrill to see the volume of gifts coming in, being sorted and set up in a department store atmosphere. Taking a client on a

shopping trip through the store can really warm the heart. Many of the elves think that volunteering at the holiday store is one of the best gifts that they could receive. Helping needy families provides rich experiences not only to those that receive, but also to those that give. **Volunteers must be 14 years old in order to work at the Store.**

Whether working in the Store or organizing your friends and neighbors...YOU WILL BRIGHTEN UP THE HOLIDAYS FOR OTHERS AND FOR YOURSELF TOO!



Believe in the Magic!



Many times we get thank you notes from the recipients. We'd like to share a couple with you, just so you know how much you are appreciated.

"I just wanted to thank the coalition and the volunteers very much for being such a big help in providing a nice Christmas for my four children. Several events, including a recent emergency relocation due to domestic violence, lead me to apply for some assistance. I was treated very respectfully by all of your volunteers, and was amazed with the generosity of the commu-

nity, and the wonderful presents I was able to obtain for the kids. I want to express my deepest thanks to all of you for providing the Christmas, that I could not this year. May all of you receive an abundance of blessing in the year to come. Hope to see you next year – as a donor and volunteer."

"As I was cleaning up toys, I felt compelled to write the coalition to thank you're your help during the holidays. This past year I not only had twin boys in October, but I was on disability for four months, so money was very tight. I just want someone to know how

much my family appreciated your help in making the holidays wonderful for us. It is my prayer that when I am financially stable, that I will be able to contribute to your organization to help others who are going through difficulties. Thank you very much."

"The Coalition Store is a wonderful and dignified way for struggling families to have a joyful Holiday. Thank you to all!"

Area Scouts Collect Food



Both the Boy Scouts and the Girls Scouts will be doing major food drives during the holiday season, which will benefit the Holiday Coalition.

The Boy Scouts of Loudoun County's Annual Food Drive "Scouting for Food" will be held on Saturday, November 15th. The week before this food drive Boy Scouts of all

ages will drop off grocery bags at your door and ask that you fill them and leave the filled bags on your front porch the morning of the 15th!

The Girl Scouts of Loudoun County's Annual Food Drive "Sing for Their Supper" will be held on Saturday, December 6th. Girl Scouts of all ages will be caroling that weekend for

food. When a troop drops by your home and sings for you, go to your pantry and fill a bag for them!

"A Scout is Helpful" is part of both the Boy Scout and Girl Scout Laws. Help them live up to the law and be ready when they come to your door. Be generous as you fill the bags and be sure to add your favorite holiday foods!

The Holiday Spirit Grows

As the holiday spirit grows so does the spirit of the community. Donating toys and gifts, as well as food and necessities, are gifts from the heart, which warm the spirit of both those that give and those that receive. If you haven't yet thought about spreading the joys of the season, perhaps now is a good time to start!

Many businesses, schools, civic and social organizations, churches, youth groups and concerned individuals team up with the "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" holiday program yearly. The holiday program makes it easy to share the holiday spirit with people in our community who might otherwise receive little during the

holiday season. Here are just a few activities you or your group could do:

- Host a party where the guests bring gifts that will be donated. (Skating parties, office and home holiday gatherings, etc.) For many of our friends this has become a holiday tradition.
- Set up winter warmth trees .. collecting mittens, hats, socks, scarves...things to warm the heart & soul.
- Set up your own "giving" or "wish" tree using items on our wish list. Ask about "Project Holiday Star"
- Hold a bake sale, book sale or a raffle that benefits the program. One office does a "mystery auction" at their annual holiday party. Gifts

are wrapped and then auctioned off to the highest bidder. The winner keeps the gift and the money collected goes to the holiday program.

- Businesses hold "Miracle Day" where a percentage of sales benefits the holiday program.
- Make a donation in honor of someone who has everything or in memory of a loved one.

Be creative and come up with your own ideas. You can make a difference and feel the true spirit of the holiday, one good deed at a time. You'll see this will be the best gift you will get this holiday season!!

Biggest Needs

- ♦ Holiday Gift Certificates for Perishable Foods
- ♦ Gifts/Gift Certificates for Pre-teens and Teens

"Someone Cares"

is a message heard loud and clear during the holiday season – you can help spread the message that "someone cares" by doing something special on one of these Nationally Celebrated Days of Service that would tie into the many needs of the Holiday Coalition!

Make a Difference Day, Oct 25th
(www.usaweekend.com/diffday)

World Kindness Day, Nov 13th
World Kindness Week
Nov 10-16 th
(www.actsofkindness.org)

Family Volunteer Day, Nov 22nd
(www.pointsoflight.org/familymatters)

Young People Make a Difference!!

In the past, schools (pre-school through college) and youth groups have been instrumental in supplying the Holiday Store with toys, mittens, hats, clothing and lots more. **Although volunteers must be a least 14 years old to work in the store,** they have been creative in finding other ways to help feel the spirit of the holidays! One school drew a giant size turkey and a big sign that said "Stuff Me" a creative way to collect stuffing mix for holiday food baskets. Others have sold "Spirit Links" for a small amount of money and have been successful in collecting \$100's of dollars for the program (often after raising the money, groups of kids go on shopping sprees and purchase needed items for the Store.) The list goes on and on. Here are

some more ways for young people to help out:

- Penny rolls: bring in all your pennies and ask the teachers to count them; as long as teachers have to count, there is no class!
- Food Drives
- Make decorations for the Stores or create handmade holiday cards
- Make homemade baked goods for the volunteers
- Fill Christmas stockings (we provide the stockings)
- Scavenger hunts for food and household items (great for team building)

- Book collections (new or like new for all ages)
- Caroling at the Christmas Store during Distribution
- Special parties or dances (how about a "Sock Hop"! Admission is food, gifts, socks, etc.
- Winter Warmth Trees
- Fill household baskets... great project for individual classrooms and youth groups.

Young people can make a difference and can find out early on that "Giving of yourself is JOYOUS, Santa Guaranteed!"

The Community Holiday Coalition encourages service groups and agencies to work together so that all people needing help will be helped equally, with no one being turned away empty handed. Non-profit or social service agencies, churches, schools and other service agencies are encouraged to refer families to this program to prevent duplication. If everyone works together everyone will have a "Bright and Joyous Holiday Season". Thank You!

PRE-TEENS/TEEN

Store Gift Certificates, Clothes, all sizes (especially larger size jeans and sweaters, fleecewear), pj's, stationary, diaries, wallets, purses, hair dryers, curling irons, jewelry, sports gear, radios, sleeping bags, duffel bags, watches, videos, games, cosmetic gift sets, hand held video games and store merchandise gift certificates. Fill Stockings for teens. (we provide the stocking).

CHILDREN

Toys of all kinds, sporting gear, games, books. Infant items, clothes, sleepers,

HOLIDAY STORE WISH LIST

diapers. Children's clothes for all ages, socks, underwear, hats, mittens and other outerwear. Our goal, in addition to toys, is to provide each child with a complete new outfit. Fill Christmas Stocking (we provide stockings),

ADULTS

Toiletry items, soaps, perfume, jewelry, scarves, gloves, hats, wallets, clothing (large sizes), sweaters, nightgowns, flannel shirts, stationary, pen sets, frames... Fill gift bags for seniors (we provide). \$10.00 gift certificates to malls, discount stores, etc. for parents .

FOOD

Gift Certificates for perishable items. (\$10, \$15, \$20, \$25) Nonperishable foods for food baskets (see list on page 2) Besides the basic holiday food, cereal, pasta, macaroni & cheese, spaghetti sauce, etc. are great.

FAMILY GIFT Household laundry baskets or large kitchen trash cans filled with household needs and personal care items. (see list on page 3)

PLEASE NEW ITEMS ONLY

HOUSEHOLD /PERSONAL BASKETS

(fill laundry baskets)

Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Kleenex
Dish Soap
Laundry Detergent
All Purpose Cleaner
Sponges
Shampoo
Deodorant
Band-Aids
Toothpaste/Toothbrushes
Hand Soap
Shaving Cream/Razors
(these are just ideas, add items if you want)

BELIEVE IN THE MAGIC OF THE HOLIDAYS



WINTER WARMTH COAT & BLANKET DRIVE

The Holiday Coalition will be collecting and distributing good, clean used coats and blankets during our Thanksgiving Distribution. Coats are needed in all sizes. Coats for children and teens are especially needed. New gloves, hats, mittens will be distributed at Christmas. Coats should be dropped off at the Dulles 28 Centre, Dulles Town Center, or Other Collections sites by November 17th

REINDEER EXPRESS



Reindeer Express helps with holiday cheer by providing holiday decorations. The goal is to provide some holiday decorations so families can have the opportunity to decorate and enjoy the anticipation that goes with the season. We are seeking "new" or "like new" decorations, ornaments and trees (artificial only). Our elves will paint and renew them (if needed) and have them ready to distribute in December. Donations can be dropped off at the Dulles 28 Centre during any of Thanksgiving Dates or December Collection Dates.



FILL A STOCKING FOR INFANTS, TODDLERS, CHILDREN AND TEENS OR FILL A GIFT BAG FOR SENIORS

*We provide mesh stockings
and gift bags to fill. Call
703-737-8062 to arrange to pick up
some! (we'll give you a list of ideas
when you pick them up)*

Collection & Distribution Dates

**Due to the Generosity of The Lerner Corporation this
years program will be held at the:**
Dulles 28 Centre
Columbia Place – Sterling
Northwest Corner of Route 28 & Waxpool Road/

THANKSGIVING

"Collection Dates"

Sunday, 11/16

12pm – 4pm

Monday, 11/17

Tuesday, 11/18

Wednesday, 11/19

9am – 9pm

"Distribution Dates"

Tuesday, 11/18

Wednesday, 11/19

Thursday, 11/20

9am – 9pm

Additional help may be needed

11/21

**For
Volunteer Information
Call: 703-737-8367**

DECEMBER

"Collection Dates"

Friday, 12/5

9am – 12pm

Sunday, 12/7

12pm – 6pm

Monday, 12/8

Tuesday, 12/9

Wednesday, 12/10

9am – 9pm

"Distribution Dates"

Thursday, 12/11 – Closed

Friday, 12/12

Saturday, 12/13

9am – 9pm

Sunday, 12/14

12pm – 9pm

Monday, 12/15

Tuesday, 12/16

Wednesday, 12/17

Thursday, 12/18

9am – 9pm

Additional help may be needed

12/19

COLLECTION SITES

The following locations will have special collection boxes where food, toys, clothing and more can be dropped off.

COAT ONLY COLLECTIONS

DULLES TOWN CENTER

Information Center

THANKSGIVING & DECEMBER HOLIDAYS9

**ALL LOUDOUN COUNTY
COMMUNITY CENTERS**

ADELPHIA – Nokes Blvd - Sterling

ARCOLA FIRE STATION

ASHBURN ICE HOUSE – Ashburn

EDWARD JONES

108 A South St – Leesburg

GLEN APARTMENTS – Leesburg

GOOD SHEPHERD THRIFT SHOP
Regal Center – Sterling

GROUP 3 AUTOMOTIVE

East Main St – Purcellville

GUARDIAN STORAGE

Leesburg, Ashburn, & Chantilly

LOUDOUN CONVENTION AND

VISITORS CENTER

222 Catocin – Leesburg

LUCK STONE CORPORATION

1700 Sterling Blvd – Sterling

POTOMAC VALLEY BANK

Leisure World

RIVERCREEK CLUB/COMMUNITY –

Olympic Blvd – Leesburg

SAWDUST SPECIALTIES

8 Fort Evans Rd – Leesburg

SOUTH RIDING TOWN HALL

Weekdays only 9-5

STORE TO DOOR

Filligree Court – Ashburn

UNITED BANK

Leesburg & Sterling Locations

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS APARTMENTS

Ashburn

VIRGINIA VILLAGE CENTER

Leesburg – Participating Stores

WORLD GYM

Leesburg & Sterling Locations

DECEMBER HOLIDAY ONLY

MERLE NORMAN COSMETICS
(Leesburg – Battlefield Shopping Ctr)

MIDDLEBURG BANK

(All Locations in Loudoun)

**We Wish Everyone a
Joyous Holiday
Season...THANKS
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!!**

For More Information

Contact

THE HOLIDAY HOTLINE

703-771-5718

Community Holiday Coalition

102 Heritage Way, Suite 200

Leesburg, VA 20176

703-771-5214 (fax)

kvelez@loudoun.gov

(e-mail)

www.loudoun.gov/dss/holiday

Supported by:

Birthday Blessing, Inc.

Good Shepherd Alliance

Lerner Corporation

LINK

Loudoun County Public

School-Head Start Program

Loudoun County Depts:

- *Social Services*
- *Housing Services*
- *MH/MR*
- *Management Services*
- *Area Agency on Aging*
- *Parks, Rec & Comm Service*
- *Volunteer Services*
- *Extension Services*

Loudoun Interfaith Relief

Loudoun Youth Shelter

MotherNet Loudoun

Northern Virginia Family Service

Red Cross of Loudoun

Toys for Tots

Transitional Housing/VOA

United Way

YMCA of Loudoun

*& hundreds of churches,
civic groups and community
service organizations, busi-
nesses, schools, government
agencies, and concerned
individuals. Truly a
"Neighbors Helping
Neighbors" Holiday Pro-
gram!*